

REMARKS

The Examiner's consideration of the foregoing amendments and remarks is greatly appreciated. Claims 1-57 are pending in the application. Claims 58-67 have been withdrawn from further consideration. In the Office Action mailed July 12, 2004 the Examiner objected to Claims 30 and 31 as improper dependent claims. Although applicants respectfully disagree with the objection, applicants have canceled Claims 30 and 31. The Office Action further rejected Claims 1-57 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0069156 (Adam et al.).

It is believed that this amendment to the first Office Action responds to each and every basis of rejection stated in the Office Action. It is therefore believed that the claims are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Detailed responses to the Examiner's reasons for rejection are set forth below.

In its entirety, independent Claim 1 recites:

1. A method for facilitating transactions between one or more buyers and sellers, the method comprising:
 - obtaining a buyer transaction request, the transaction request including one or more buyer criteria;
 - identifying a set of sellers corresponding to the at least one buyer criteria;
 - transmitting the set of sellers corresponding to the buyer criteria;
 - obtaining a selection of at least one seller corresponding to the buyer criteria;
 - processing the negotiation of a transaction between the buyer and the selected seller corresponding to the buyer criteria;
 - obtaining a confirmation of the completion of a transaction between the buyer and the selected seller; and
 - generating transaction records associated with the completed transaction.

The Office Action asserts that Adam et al. teaches all the limitations recited with regard to Claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that Adam et al. fails to teach or suggest every limitation recited with regard to Claim 1. Specifically, Adam et al. fails to teach or suggest

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"obtaining a confirmation of the completion of a transaction between the buyer and the selected seller" as recited in the claim. Although the Office Action generally recites to the Adam et al. publication for teaching this element, applicants respectfully submit that Adam et al. fails to make the necessary teaching. For the same reasons discussed above with regard to Claim 1, dependent Claims 2-30 are patentable over Adam et al. Additionally, the dependent claims recite additional limitations that establish the patentability of the invention over Adam et al.

For the same reasons discussed with regard to Claim 1, independent Claim 32 recites "obtaining a confirmation of the completion of a transaction between the buyer and the selected seller." As discussed above, Adam et al. fails to teach or suggest this limitation. Additionally, dependent Claims 33-57 are patentable over Adam et al. for the reasons recited with regard to Claim 32. Additionally, the dependent claims recite additional limitations that establish the patentability of the invention over Adam et al.

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CONCLUSION

The foregoing amendment and response is submitted as a full and complete response to the first official Office Action mailed July 12, 2004. If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be resolved by telephone conference, or that there are any informalities that can be corrected by the Examiner's amendment, please call the undersigned at 206.695.1728.

Respectfully submitted,

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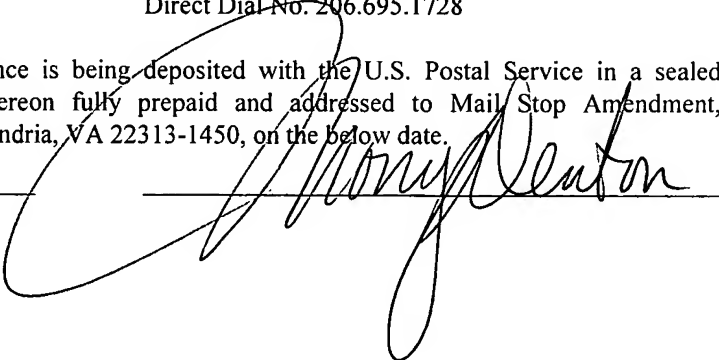


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Date:

January 12, 2005



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